

Lesson IV.

THE WHEAT AND THE TARES

July 28, 1912

Matthew 13 : 24-30, 36-43—Memory Verses, 37-39.

Golden Text—Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them : but gather the wheat into my barn.—Matthew 13 : 30.



24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field :

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field ? from whence then hath it tares ?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up ?

29 But he said, Nay ; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest : and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them : but gather the wheat into my barn.

36 Then Je'sus sent the multitude away, and went into the house : and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man ;

38 The field is the world ; the good seed are the children of the kingdom ; but the tares are the children of the wicked one ;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil ; the harvest is the end of the world ; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire ; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity ;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire : there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus, sitting in the little fishing boat, told the people still another parable. "The kingdom of heaven", He said, "is like a certain farmer sowing good seed in his field." But a neighbor had a grudge against him and came in the darkness one night and sowed weeds and thistles all over the carefully planted field.

At last the wheat came up and the farmer's servants went out to inspect the crop. What was their surprise to find great quantities of tares and weeds, springing up with the wheat. They hurried to their master

thinking he must have been cheated in the seed he had bought. But the farmer knowing that the seed which had been sown was good seed, said at once, "Some enemy must have done this."

Then the servants, anxious to save the crop, begged to be allowed to root out the weeds. But the farmer said, "No, for in gathering out the weeds there will be danger of also destroying the good grain. Let both grow together till harvest time and then I will say to the reapers, 'Gather first the weeds into bundles and burn them, but gather the